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21896

The Republics of the Former Soviet Union and the Baltic States: An Overview

A Reference Aid

**CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE IN FULL
1999**

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The Republics of the Former Soviet Union and the Baltic States: An Overview

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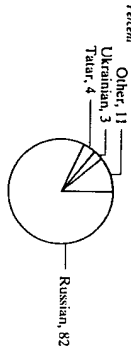
Scope Note

Key demographic, ethnic, and economic aspects of each Baltic state and republic of the former Soviet Union are addressed. Shares of national income were calculated using data for the 12 republics and three Baltic states. Baltic economies accounted for approximately 3 percent of the Soviet Union's national income.

Basic Demographic Data

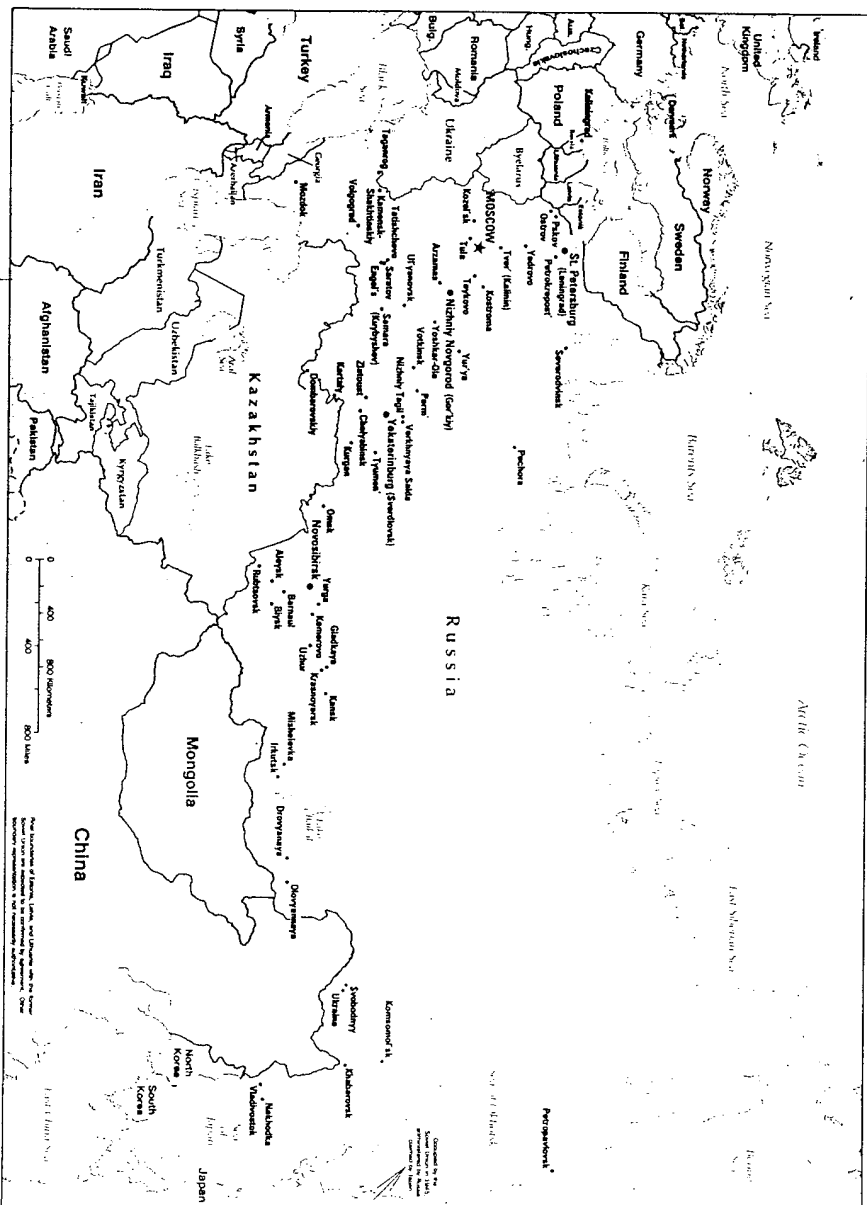
Total population: 148,041,000 (1990)
Growth rate: 0.7% (1979-89)
Urban: 74% Rural: 26% (1989)
Net migration rate: -0.1 migrants/1,000 population (1979-89)
Birthrate: 14.6 births/1,000 population (1989)
Age composition: 0-14, 23%; 15-24, 13%; 25-64, 54%; 65+, 10% (1989)
Largest cities (population in thousands): Moscow, 9,000; St. Petersburg (formerly Leningrad), 5,035; Nizhny Novgorod (formerly Gorky), 1,443; Novosibirsk, 1,443; Yekaterinburg (formerly Sverdlovsk), 1,372 (all in 1989)

Ethnic Composition



Trends in Ethnic Composition
 Russians continue to make up more than 80 percent of the republic's population, despite a slight decline in their proportion during the 1980s. The republic also has sizable concentrations of more than 50 nationality groups and has 31 ethnic administrative areas. More than 40 percent of the USSR's Jewish and German populations live in Russia, although they each make up less than 1 percent of the republic's population.

Economic Significance
 Russia dominates the Soviet economy, producing 61 percent of total national income with about 60 percent of the national labor force and 63 percent of the country's productive capital stock. It receives more than half of all Soviet investment resources.



BYELARUS

Declared independence 25 August 1991

Basic Demographic Data

Total population: 10,259,000 (1990)

Growth rate: 0.7% (1979-89)

Urban: 65% Rural: 35% (1989)

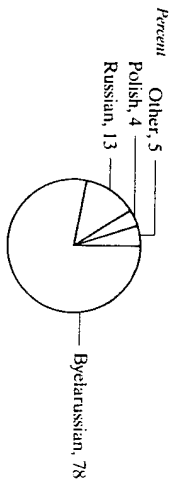
Net migration rate: -0.1 migrants/1,000 population (1979-88);
-1.1 migrants/1,000 population (1989-90)

Birthrate: 15.0 births/1,000 population (1989)

Age composition: 0-14, 23%; 15-24, 14%; 25-64, 53%; 65+, 10% (1989)

Largest cities (population in thousands): Minsk, 1,613; Gomel', 506; Mogilev, 363; Vitebsk, 356; Grodno, 277; Brest, 269 (all in 1990)

Ethnic Composition

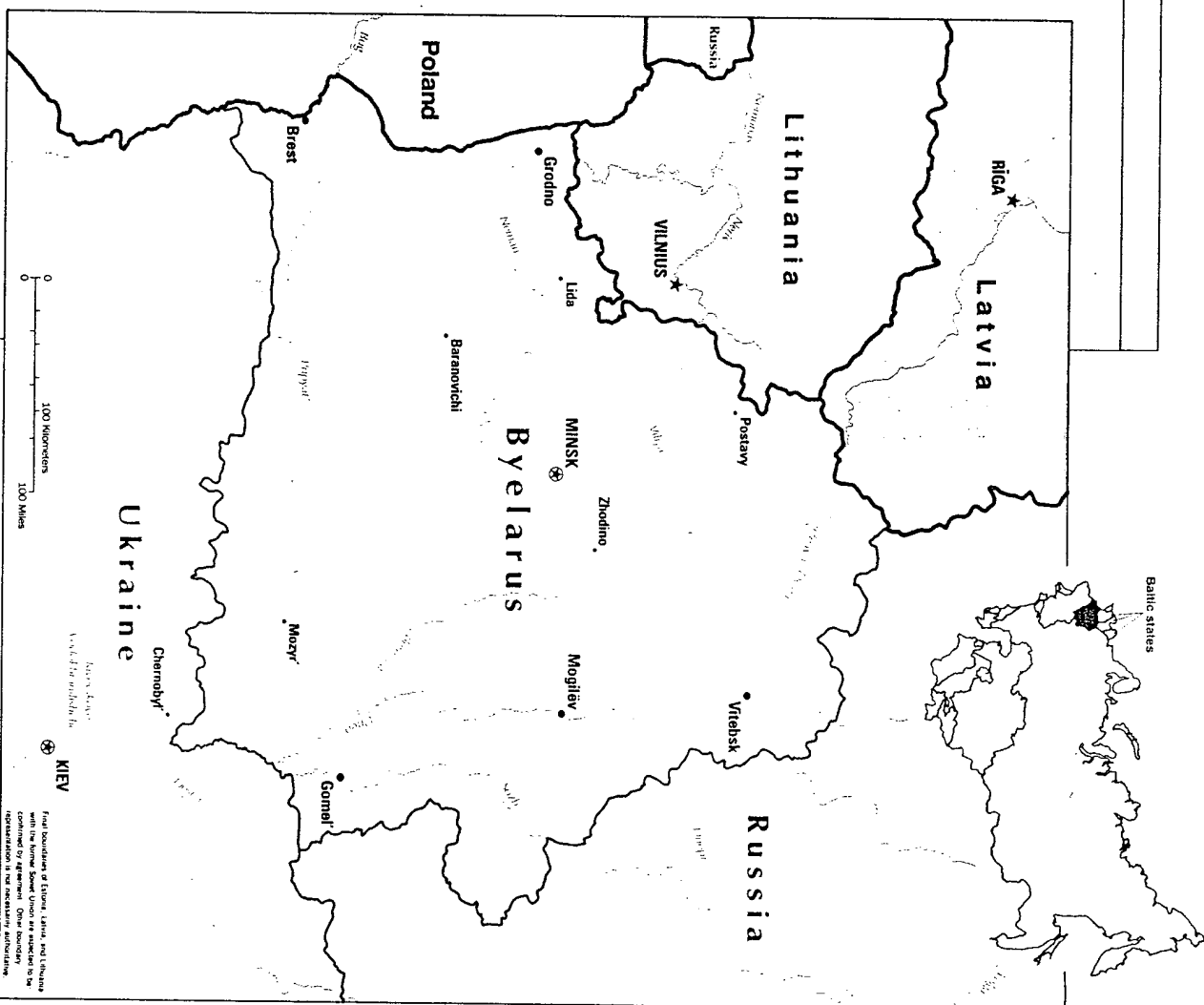


Trends in Ethnic Composition

Byelorussians hold a strong majority. Shifts in Byelorussia's ethnic composition have been slight because the net migration rate is low and because birthrates among Byelorussians and Russians are about the same. During the past 10 years, the Byelorussian proportion declined by 1 percentage point, while the ethnic Russian proportion increased by about the same amount.

Economic Significance

Byelorussia is one of the USSR's most productive republics, contributing some 4.2 percent of the total Soviet national income with only 3.7 percent of the labor force. Annual industrial output has grown faster here than in any other republic—tripling since 1970.



Front boundaries of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania with the former Soviet Union are indicated by dashed lines. Other boundaries are not necessarily authoritative.

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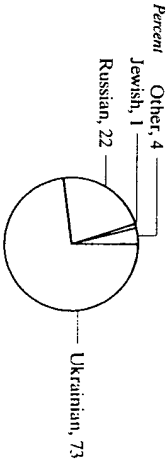
UKRAINE

Declared independence 24 August 1991

Basic Demographic Data

Total population:	51,839,000 (1990)
Growth rate:	0.3% (1979-89)
Urban:	67% (1989)
Rural:	33% (1989)
Net migration rate:	+0.3 migrants/1,000 population (1979-88); +1.2 migrants/1,000 population (1989-90)
Birthrate:	14.6 births/1,000 population (1989)
Age composition:	0-14, 22%; 15-24, 13%; 25-64, 53%; 65+, 12% (1989)
Largest cities (population in thousands):	Kiev, 2,616; Khar'kov, 1,618; Dnepropetrovsk, 1,187; Odessa, 1,106; Donetsk, 1,117 (all in 1989)

Ethnic Composition

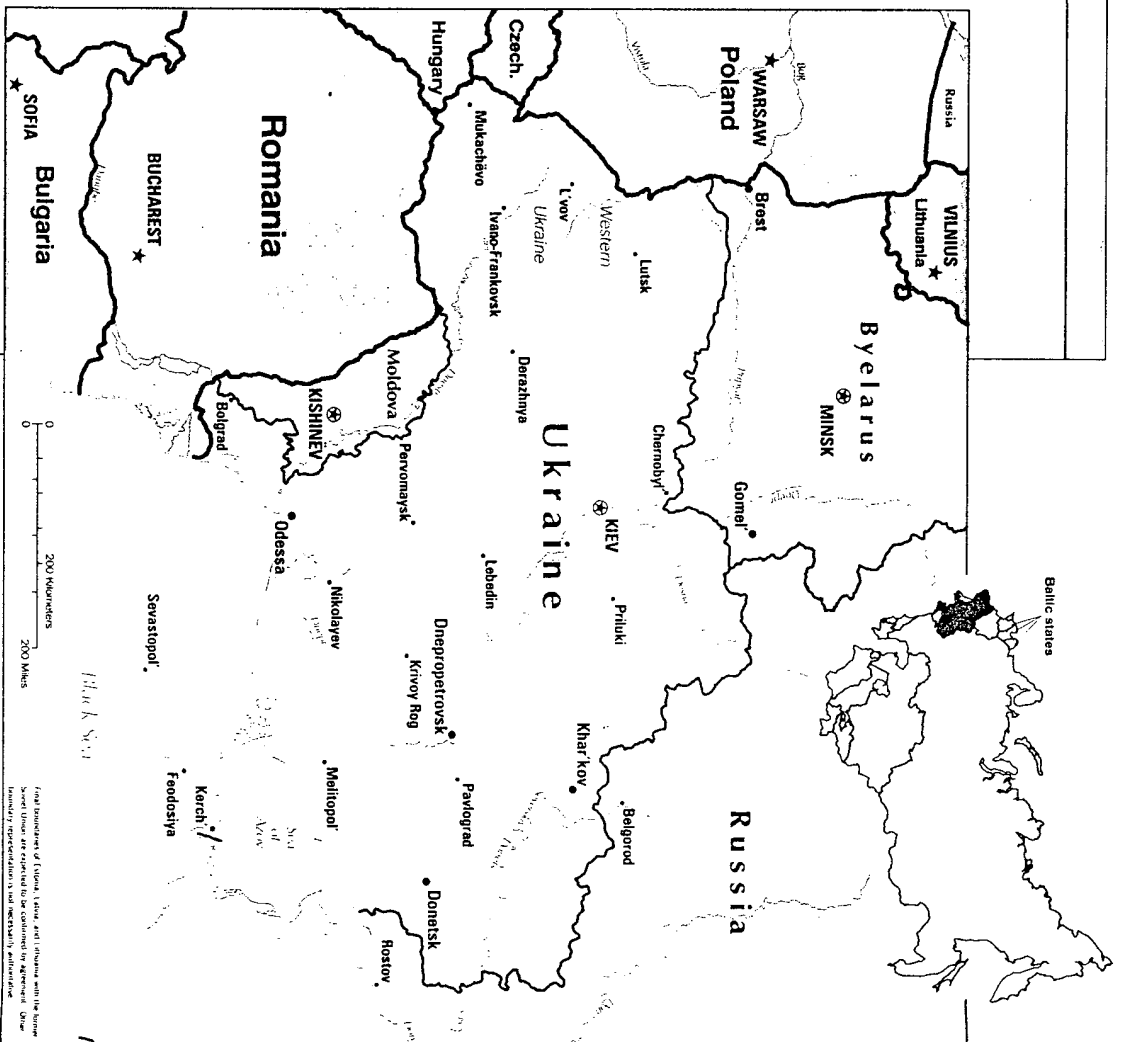


Trends in Ethnic Composition

The ethnic balance in Ukraine has remained fairly stable. Shifts in ethnic composition have been slight because the net migration rate is low and birthrates among Ukrainians and Russians are about the same. Ethnic distribution within the republic, however, varies: western Ukraine is predominantly Ukrainian, while the rest of the republic is more ethnically diverse. About 40 percent of the USSR's Jewish population lives in the republic.

Economic Significance

Ukraine's economy is second in size only to that of the Russian Republic, and it contributes 16 percent of the total Soviet national income. Known as the nation's breadbasket, Ukraine accounts for approximately one-fifth of total Soviet agricultural output.



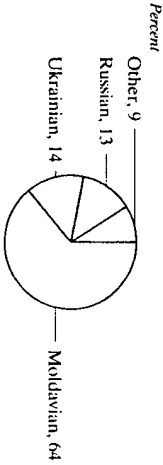
MOLDOVA

Declared independence 27 August 1991

Basic Demographic Data

Total population:	4,362,000 (1990)
Growth rate:	1.0% (1979-89)
Urban:	47% Rural: 53% (1989)
Net migration rate:	-1.5 migrants/1,000 population (1979-88); -5.3 migrants/1,000 population (1989-90)
Birthrate:	18.9 births/1,000 population (1989)
Age composition:	0-14, 28%; 15-24, 14%; 25-64, 50%; 65+, 8% (1989)
Largest cities (population in thousands):	Kishinev, 676; Bel'sy, 162; Bendery, 132; Tiraspol', 184 (all in 1989)

Ethnic Composition

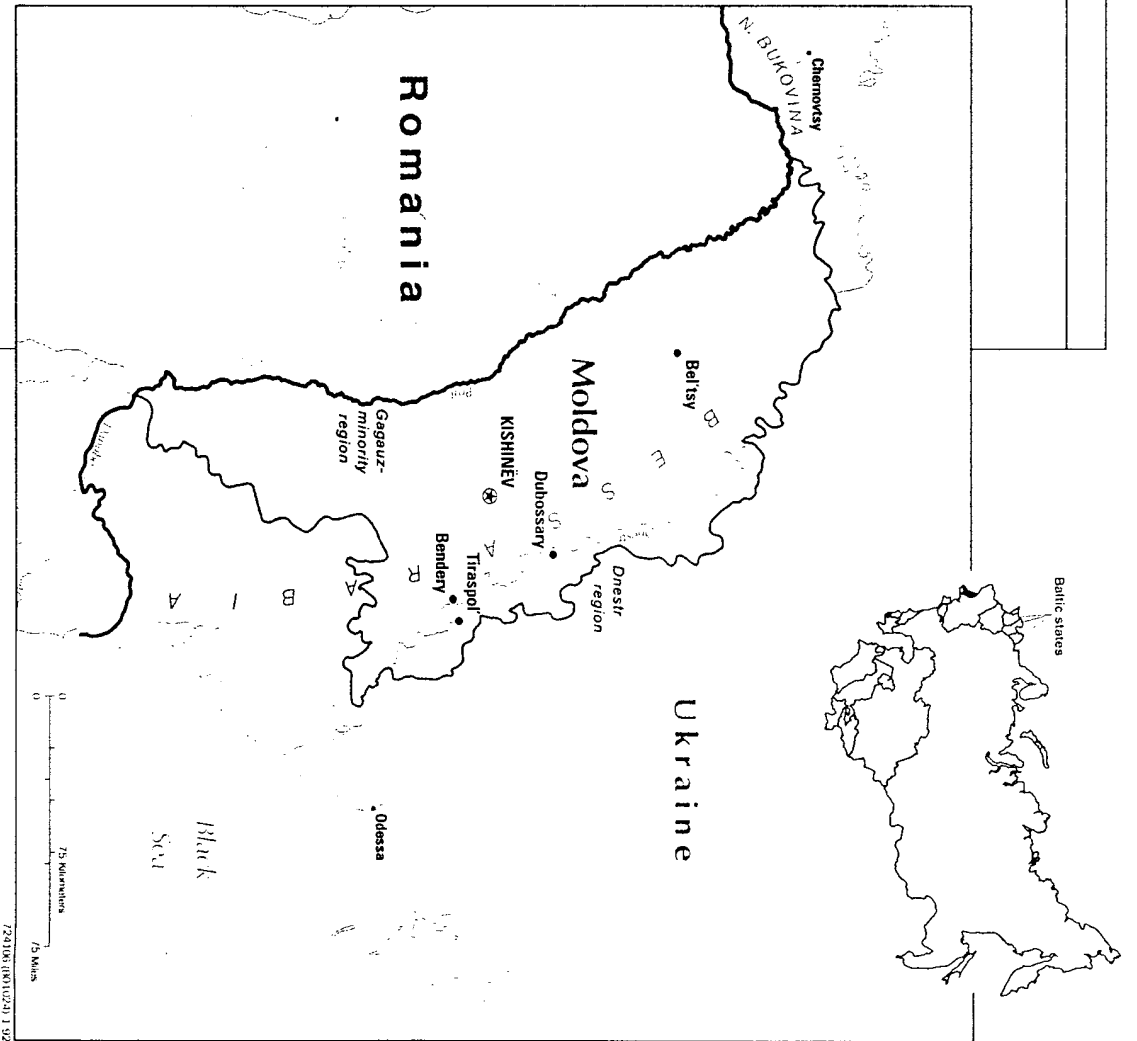


Trends in Ethnic Composition

Moldavians, essentially Romanians, hold a strong majority in the republic. The Moldavian, Russian, and Ukrainian proportions changed only slightly during the last 10 years. Russians and Ukrainians make up more than a quarter of Moldova's population and are concentrated in the Dniestr region. This area declared itself an independent republic in September 1990 and remains locked in battle with Kishinev. This and other smaller concentrations of Russians and Ukrainians are influential; in the spring of 1990, the Russian-speaking city of Tiraspol' voted to become an independent territory rather than be bound by a law that made Moldavian the republic's official language.

Economic Significance

Moldova's economic development has been based primarily on intensive agriculture and the food-processing industry. With industry accounting for only 20 percent of its labor force, Moldova's economy most resembles those of the Central Asian republics. Moldova imports all of its coal, natural gas, and oil, most of it coming from Ukraine and the Russian Republic.



GEORGIA

Declared independence 9 April 1991

Basic Demographic Data

Total population: 5,456,000 (1990)

Growth rate: 0.8% (1979-89)

Urban: 56% Rural: 44% (1989)

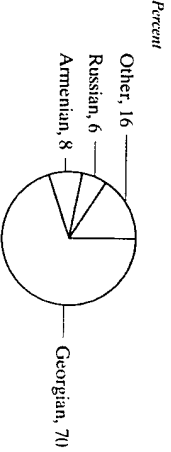
Net migration rate: -1.1 migrants/1,000 population (1979-88);
-6.2 migrants/1,000 population (1989-90)

Birthrate: 16.7 births/1,000 population (1989)

Age composition: 0-14, 25%; 15-24, 15%; 25-64, 51%; 65+, 9% (1989)

Largest cities (population in thousands): Tbilisi, 1,268; Kutaisi, 236; Rustavi, 160; Batumi, 137; Sukhumi, 122 (all in 1989)

Ethnic Composition

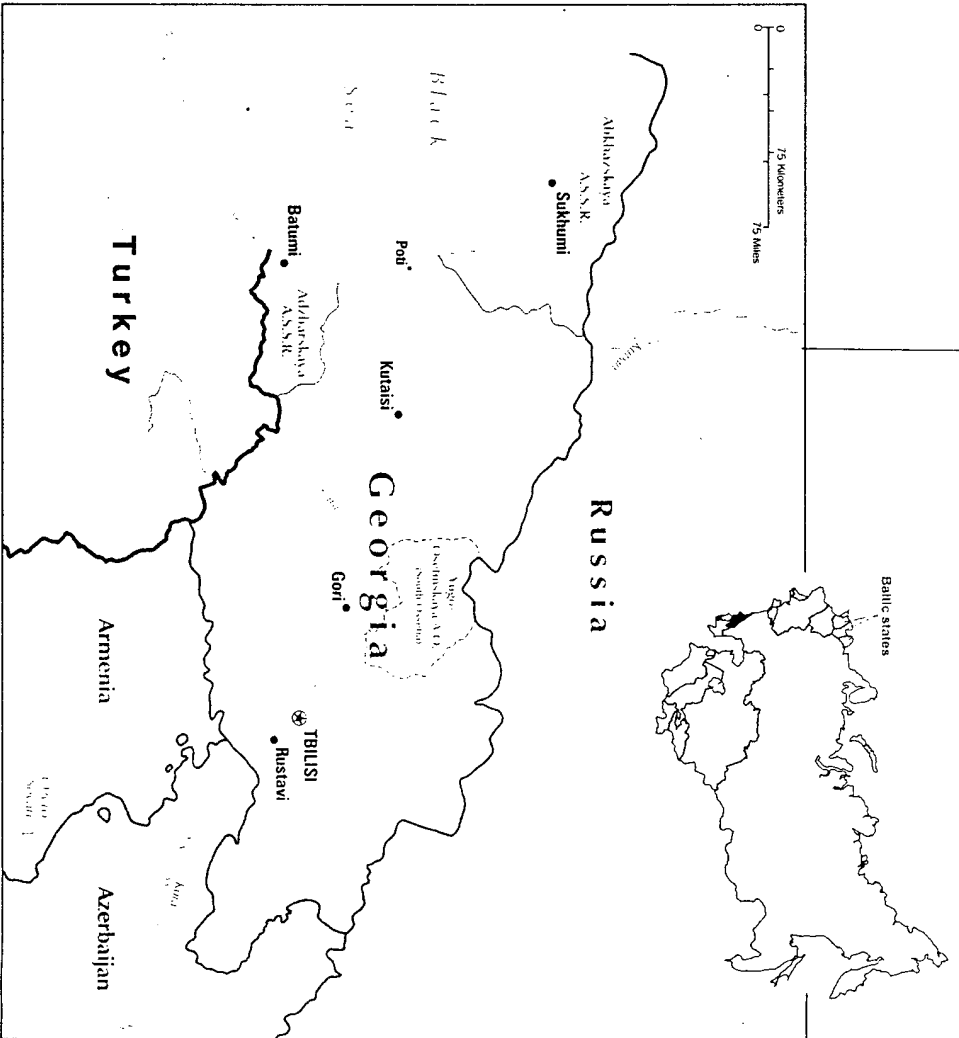


Trends in Ethnic Composition

Over the past 10 years, the Georgian proportion of the republic's population grew by more than 1 percent, and the Russian proportion declined by a similar amount. This trend was accelerated by an outmigration of ethnic Russians. The Ossetian and Abkhazian populations grew by 9 and 2 percent, respectively, between 1979 and 1989. The Ossetians make up barely 3 percent of the republic's population, but almost two-thirds of their autonomous oblasts, while the Abkhaz make up less than 2 percent of the republic's population and only 18 percent of their autonomous republic.

Economic Significance

Traditionally known for its tourist industry and active private sector, Georgia's small but diversified industry has continued to deteriorate under the Georgian leadership's neglect of economic affairs. Georgia cultivates crops not grown in other republics, chiefly tea and citrus fruits.



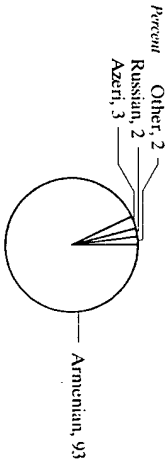
ARMENIA

Declared independence 23 September 1991

Basic Demographic Data

Total population:	3,293,000 (1990)
Growth rate:	0.8% (1979-89)
Urban:	68%
Rural:	32% (1989)
Net migration rate:	-9.7 migrants/1,000 population (1979-88); -2.9 migrants/1,000 population (1989-90)
Birthrate:	21.6 births/1,000 population (1989)
Age composition:	0-14, 30%; 15-24, 17%; 25-64, 48%; 65+, 5% (1989)
Largest cities (population in thousands):	Yerevan, 1,202; Kumayri (formerly Leninakan), 123; Kirovakan, 76;* Echmiadzin, 61; Razdan, 59 (all in 1989)
* Not including people evacuated as a result of the December 1988 earthquake.	

Ethnic Composition

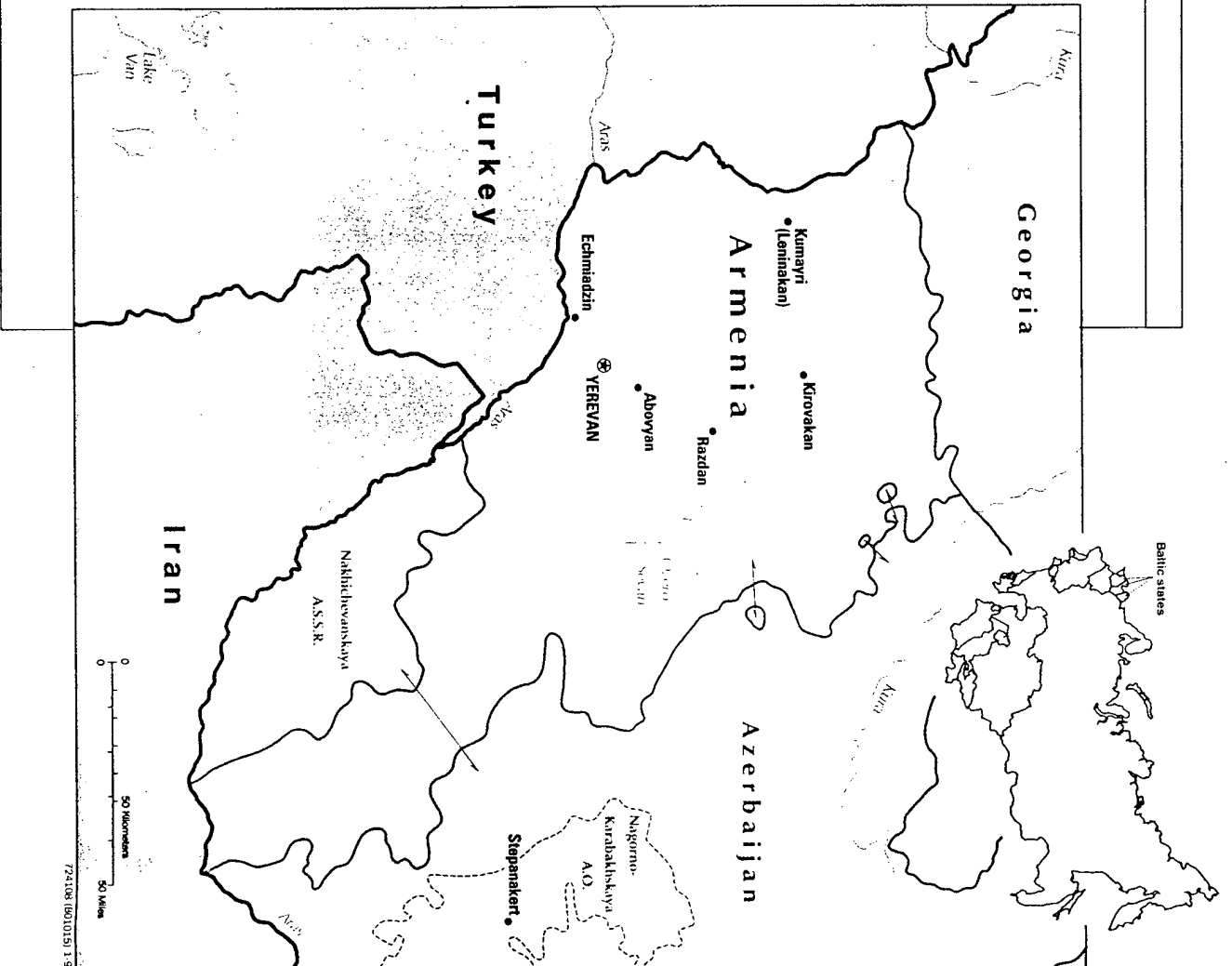


Trends in Ethnic Composition

Of all the titular nationalities, ethnic Armenians hold the strongest majority in their republic. During the 1980s their demographic position was strengthened by high outmigration of nonindigenous nationalities—a trend that started during the 1960s. Much of this outmigration probably consisted of ethnic Russians, whose population dropped by over 25 percent and whose proportion of the republic's population fell by almost 1 percentage point between 1979 and 1989. Meanwhile ethnic fighting has forced nearly all Azeris to flee the republic since 1988.

Economic Significance

Armenia's machine-building industry, a key supplier to other industries throughout the country, has been crippled by political upheaval and blockades, which have severely curtailed inflows of energy supplies and raw materials on which the republic depends.



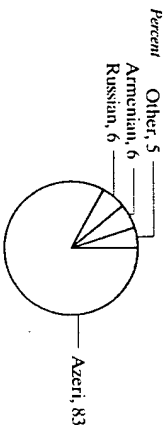
A Z E R B A I J A N

Declared independence 30 August 1991

Basic Demographic Data

Total population:	7,131,000 (1990)
Growth rate:	1.5% (1979-89)
Urban:	54% Rural: 46% (1989)
Net migration rate:	-3.9 migrants/1,000 population (1979-88); -12.4 migrants/1,000 population (1989-90)
Birthrate:	26.4 births/1,000 population (1989)
Age composition:	0-14, 33%; 15-24, 19%; 25-64, 43%; 65+, 5% (1989)
Largest cities (population in thousands):	Baku, 1,780; Gyandzha (formerly Kirovabad), 281; Sumgait, 235; Mingechaur, 88; Nakhichevan*, 60 (all in 1989)

Ethnic Composition

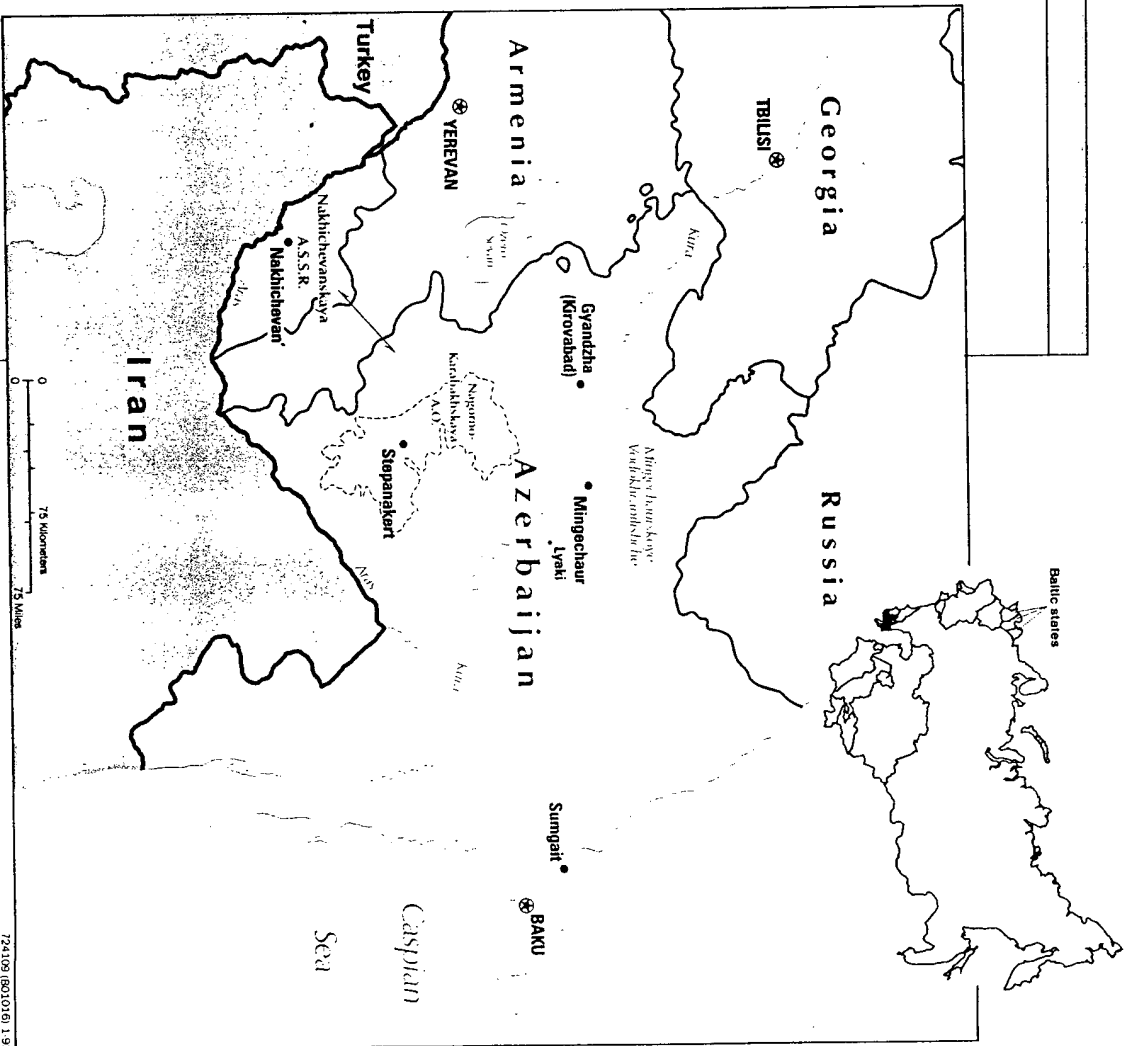


Trends in Ethnic Composition

Azerbaijan has experienced over two decades of outmigration of Russians and Ukrainians; this outmigration has strengthened the Azeris' demographic position in the republic. Between 1979 and 1989, the Azeri share of the republic's population grew by more than 4 percent. Small concentrations of Russians and Ukrainians still exist in central Azerbaijan and around the republic capital of Baku. Armenians have been forced out of most of the republic and now are concentrated in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast.

Economic Significance

Azerbaijan is a net exporter of energy, including oil, gas, and electricity. The republic also produces significant amounts of cotton, which it uses for its domestic light industry sector.



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UZBEKISTAN

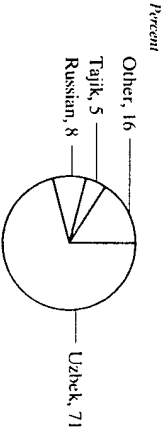
Declared independence 31 August 1991

Basic Demographic Data

Total population:	20,322,000 (1990)
Growth rate:	2.6% (1979-89)
Urban:	41% Rural: 59% (1989)
Net migration rate:	-2.9 migrants/1,000 population (1979-88); -6.8 migrants/1,000 population (1989-90)
Birthrate:	33.3 births/1,000 population (1989)
Age composition:	0-14, 41%; 15-24, 19%; 25-64, 36%; 65+, 4% (1989)

Largest cities (population in thousands): Tashkent, 2,094; Samarkand, 370; Namangan, 312; Andizhan, 297; Bukhara, 228 (all in 1989)

Ethnic Composition

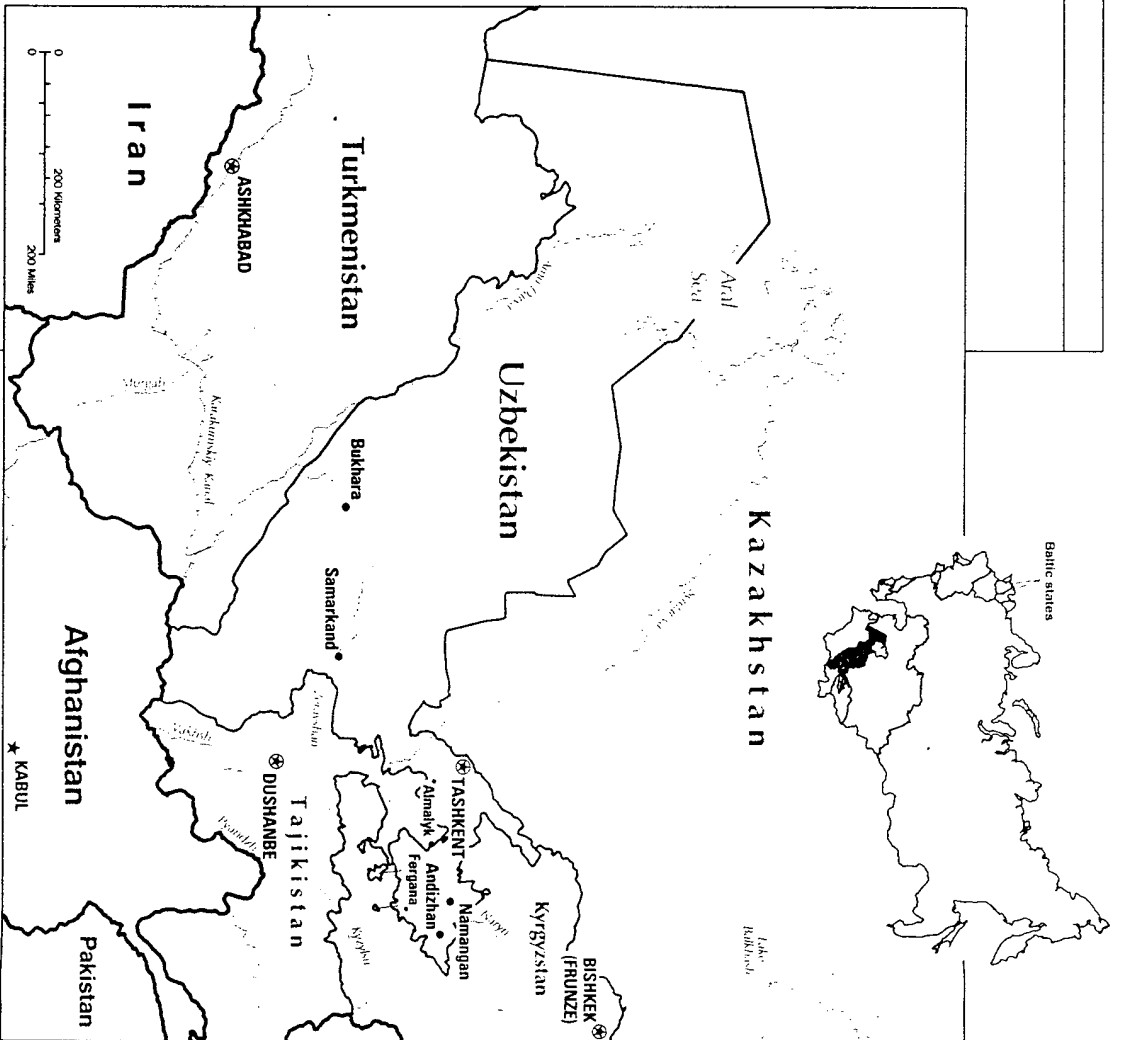


Trends in Ethnic Composition

High birthrates among Uzbeks and outmigration of Russians have changed the ethnic composition of Uzbekistan over the past 10 years in favor of Uzbeks. While the Russian proportion fell by more than 2 percentage points, the Uzbek proportion increased by a similar amount to over 70 percent. Uzbekistan has a large number of Crimean Tatars (about 70 percent of the USSR's 269,000 Crimean Tatars), who were deported from the Crimean Peninsula by Stalin during World War II.

Economic Significance

Cotton still retains a dominant role in Uzbekistan's economy. The republic produces about two-thirds of the USSR's raw cotton, and its industry is geared to support the cotton crop. Uzbekistan is also a major producer of minerals such as gold and uranium.



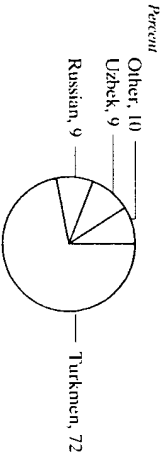
TURKMENISTAN

Declared independence 27 October 1991

Basic Demographic Data

Total population:	3,622,000 (1990)
Growth rate:	2.5% (1979-89)
Urban:	45%
Rural:	55% (1989)
Net migration rate:	-2.7 migration/1,000 population (1979-88); -1.7 migration/1,000 population (1989-90)
Birthrate:	35.0 births/1,000 population (1989)
Age composition:	0-14, 40%; 15-24, 20%; 25-64, 36%; 65+, 4% (1989)
Largest cities (population in thousands):	Ashkhabad, 407 (1989); Chardzhou, 164 (1989); Tashauz, 114 (1989); Mary, 94 (1987); Nebit-Dag, 89 (1987)

Ethnic Composition

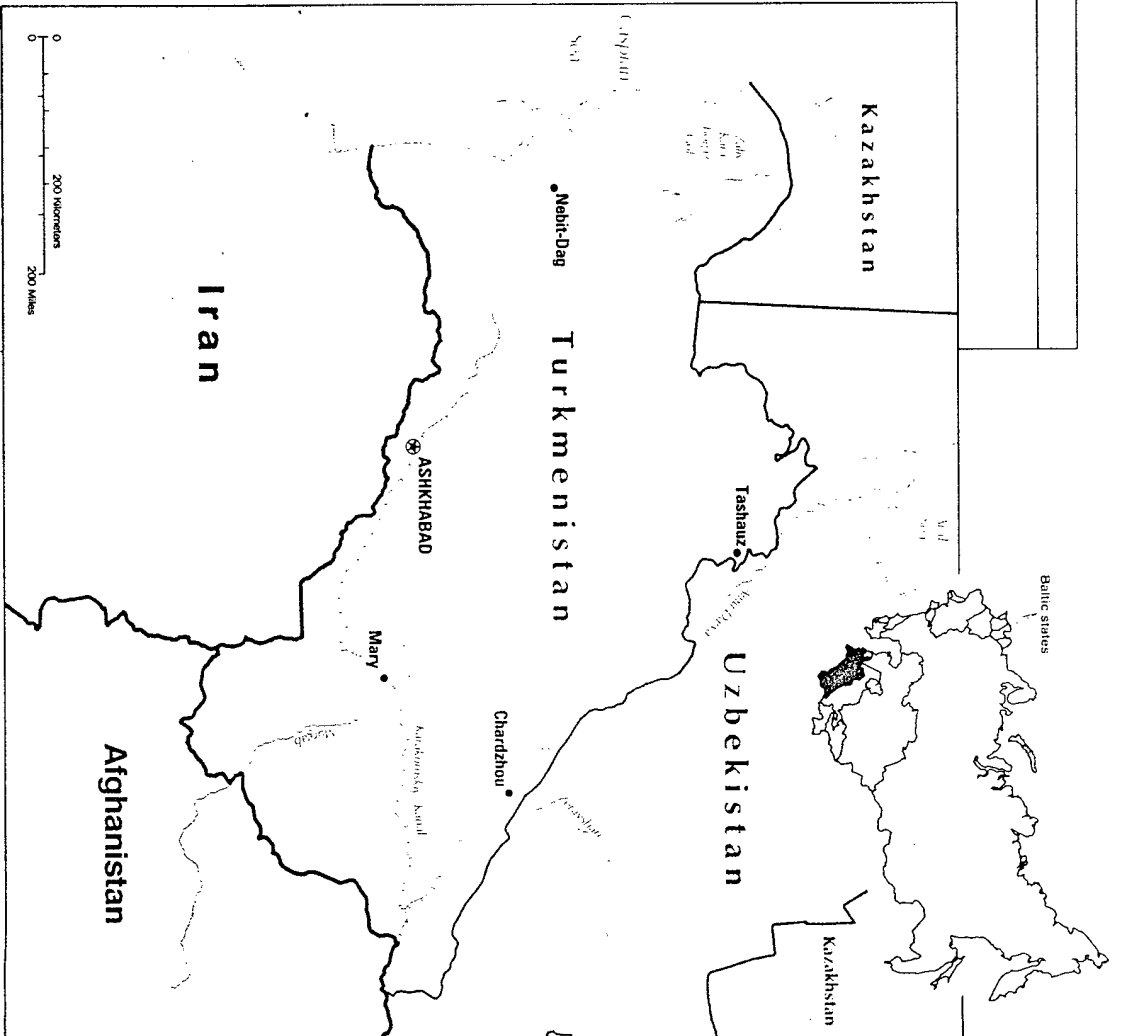


Trends in Ethnic Composition

The proportion of Russians in the republic fell to below 10 percent during the 1980s, while the Turkmen proportion increased by almost 4 percentage points. Russian outmigration and high birthrates among Turkmen account for these shifts. A substantial concentration of Uzbeks is located along the republic's northeastern boundary with Uzbekistan.

Economic Significance

Turkmenistan ranks second among republics in the production of both natural gas and cotton. It also has some oil production potential. Agriculture employs more than one-third of the labor force, while only 10 percent are employed in industry—the smallest percentage of any of the republics.



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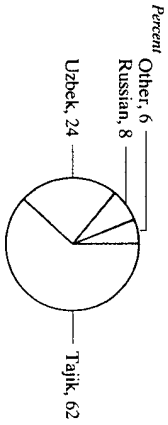
T A J I K I S T A N

Declared independence 9 September 1991

Basic Demographic Data

Total population:	5,248,000 (1990)
Growth rate:	3.0% (1979-89)
Urban:	33%
Rural:	67% (1989)
Net migration rate:	-2.4 migrants/1,000 population (1979-88); -7.7 migrants/1,000 population (1989-90)
Birthrate:	38.7 births/1,000 population (1989)
Age composition:	0-14, 43%; 15-24, 19%; 25-64, 34%; 65+, 4% (1989)
Largest cities (population in thousands):	Dushanbe, 602 (1989); Khujand (formerly Leninabad), 163 (1989); Kulyab, 77 (1987); Kurgan-Tyube, 59 (1987)

Ethnic Composition

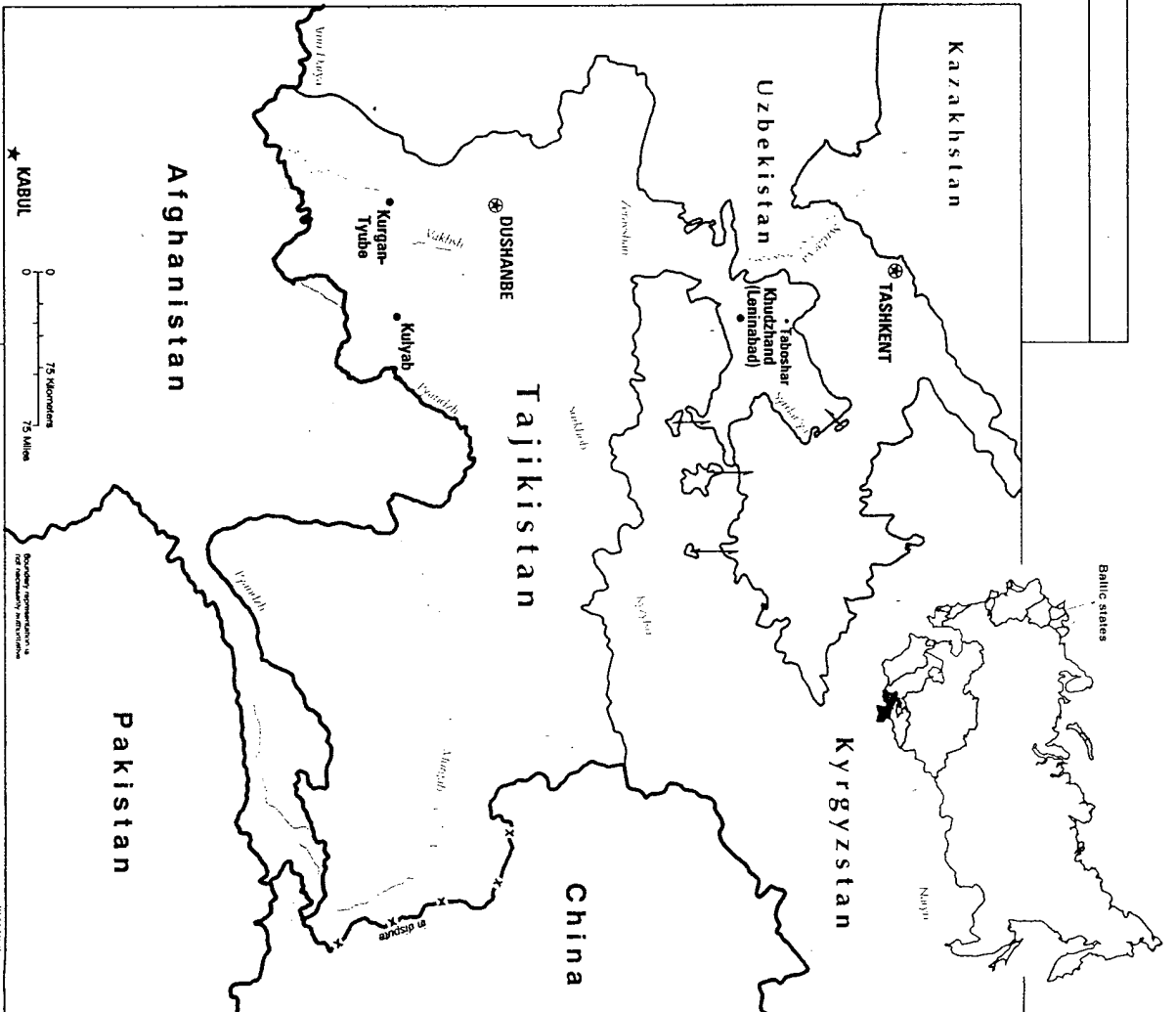


Trends in Ethnic Composition

Tajikistan was the fastest growing republic during the 1980s, despite substantial outmigration. This is because Tajiks have the highest birthrate of all 15 titular nationalities. The Tajik proportion of the republic's population grew by more than 3 percentage points between 1979 and 1989. Tajiks make up only about 40 percent of the population of Dushanbe, the republic capital.

Economic Significance

A primarily agricultural republic, Tajikistan produces cotton, fruit, and vegetable oil. The republic also boasts significant hydroelectric potential.



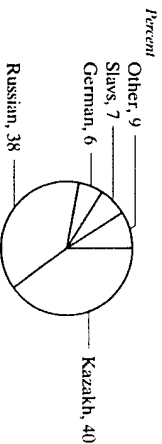
KAZAKHSTAN

Basic Demographic Data

Total population:	16,691,000 (1990)
Growth rate:	1.2% (1979-89)
Urban:	57%
Rural:	43% (1989)
Net migration rate:	-5.0 migrants/1,000 population (1979-88); -6.7 migrants/1,000 population (1989-90)
Birthrate:	23.0 births/1,000 population (1989)
Age composition:	0-14, 32%; 15-24, 17%; 25-64, 45%; 65+, 6% (1989)

Largest cities (population in thousands): Alma-Ata, 1,147; Karaganda, 613; Chimkent, 401; Semipalatinsk, 339; Pavlodar, 337 (all in 1989)

Ethnic Composition

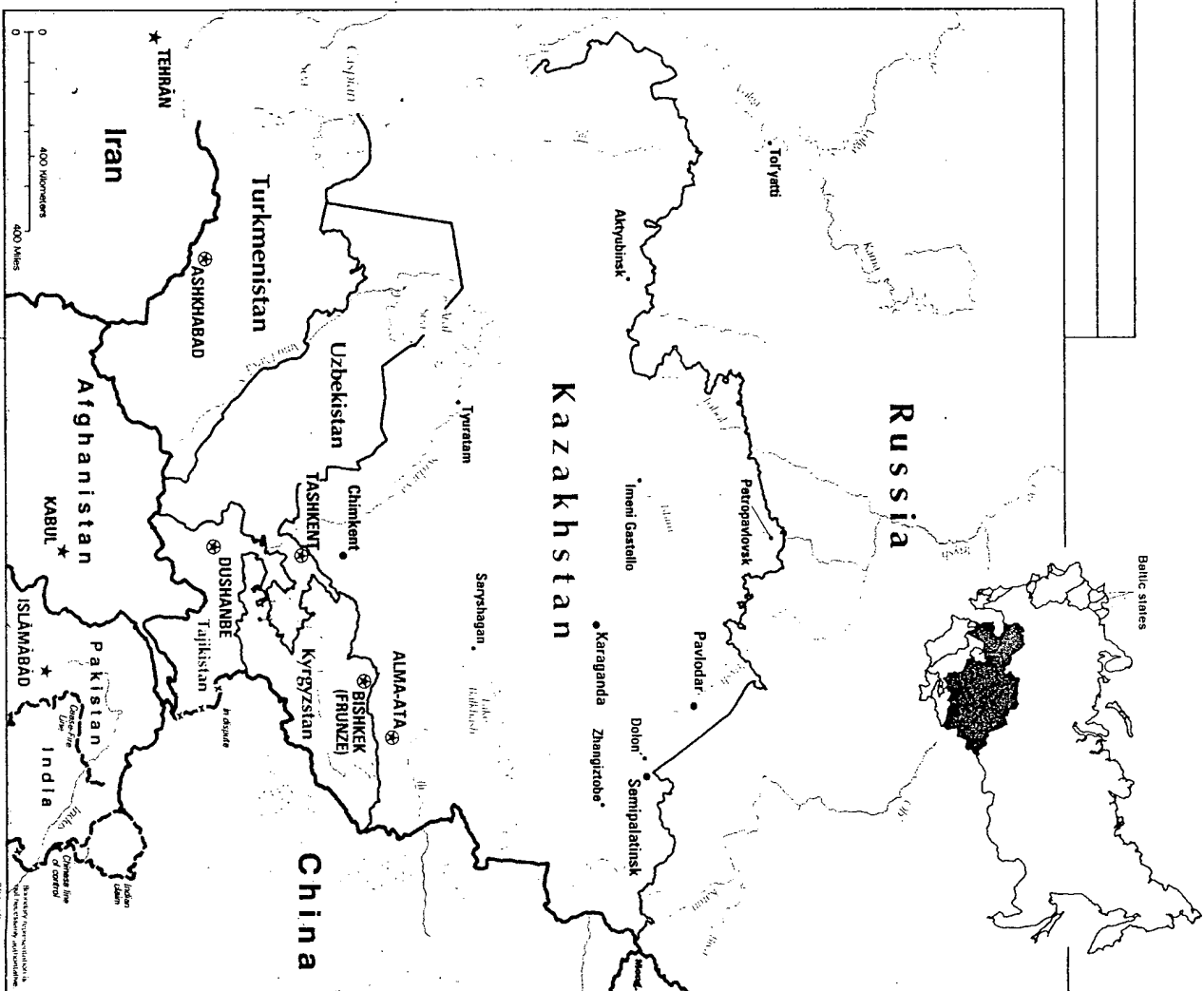


Trends in Ethnic Composition

Ethnic European nationalities constitute 55 percent of the republic's population, but Kazakhs have risen from 30 percent to 40 percent of the population in the past 30 years. Outmigration of nonindigenous groups and relatively high birthrates among Kazakhs account for much of this demographic shift. Kazakhstan has a large number of ethnic Germans (about 47 percent of the USSR's 2 million Germans) who were forcibly deported there by Stalin. The German population is concentrated in the northeastern part of the republic.

Economic Significance

Kazakhstan is a major supplier of power, fuel, metals, and chemicals, as well as food to the rest of the country. The republic produces almost one-fifth of the coal mined in the country and has immense, though undeveloped, oil reserves.



KYRGYZSTAN

Declared independence 31 August 1991

Basic Demographic Data

Total population: 4,367,000 (1990)

Growth rate: 2.0% (1979-89)

Urban: 38% Rural: 62% (1989)

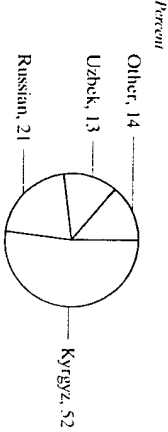
Net migration rate: -4.0 migrants/1,000 population (1979-88);
-6.7 migrants/1,000 population (1989-90)

Birthrate: 30.4 births/1,000 population (1989)

Age composition: 0-14, 37%; 15-24, 18%; 25-64, 40%; 65+, 5%
(all in 1991)

Largest cities (population in thousands): Bishkek (formerly Frunze), 616; Osh, 218; Dzhalaal-Abad, 74; Tokmak, 72; Przhenev'sk, 64 (all in 1991)

Ethnic Composition

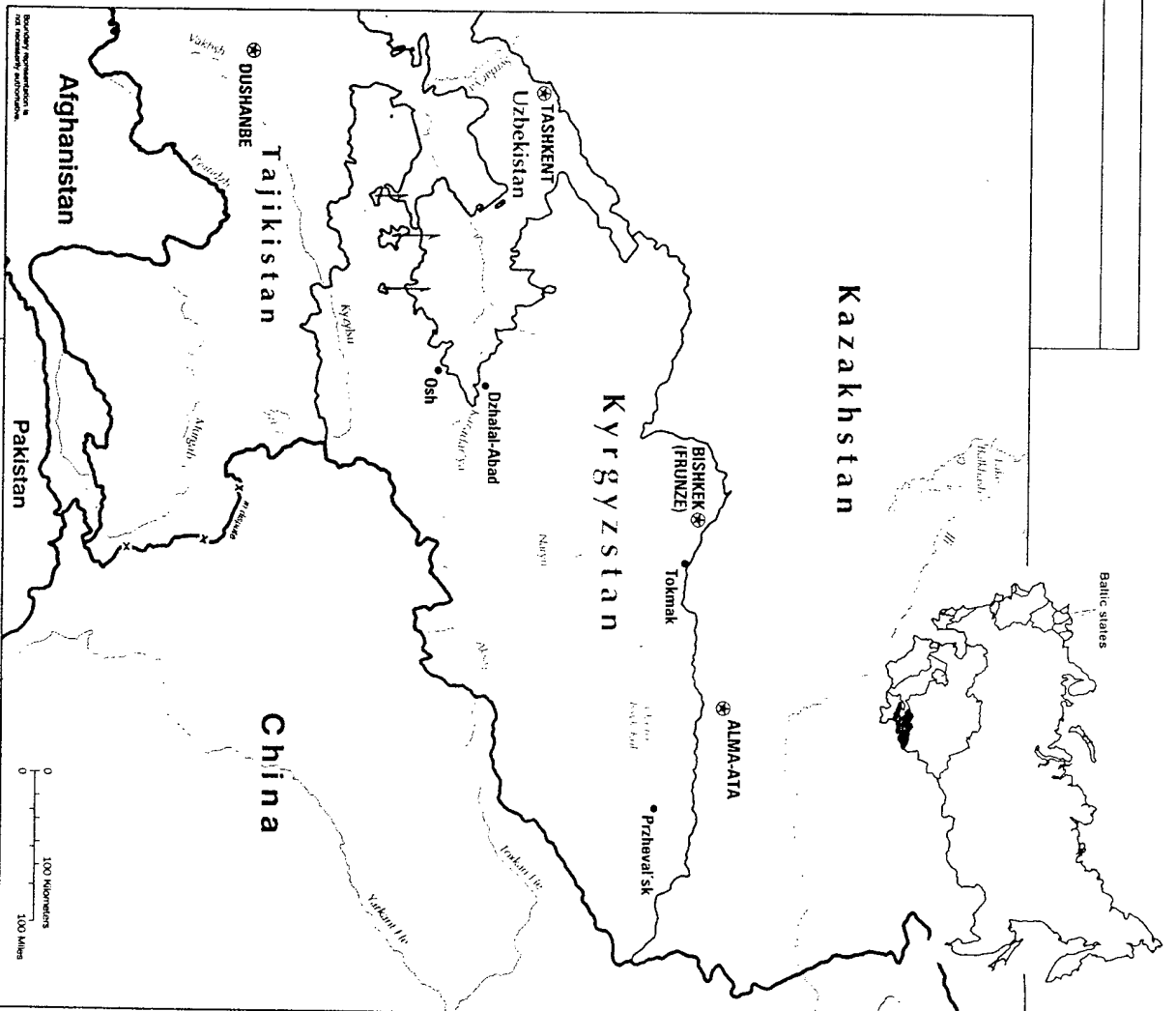


Trends in Ethnic Composition

Over the last 30 years the ethnic Kyrgyz have steadily increased their share of the population from a plurality to a majority, while the ethnic European share has declined from 39 percent to 27 percent. This trend was largely the result of the outmigration of Russians and other Europeans and the high birthrate among the Kyrgyz.

Economic Significance

The republic plays only a minor role in the Soviet economy—its industry supplies livestock equipment and electric motors. Agricultural production includes wool, tobacco, and cotton. Uranium is mined here, and there are undeveloped deposits of some rare earth metals.



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ESTONIA

Declared independence 20 August 1991, recognized by the USSR on 6 September 1991

Basic Demographic Data

Total population: 1,583,000 (1990)

Growth rate: 0.7% (1979-89)

Urban: 72% Rural: 28% (1989)

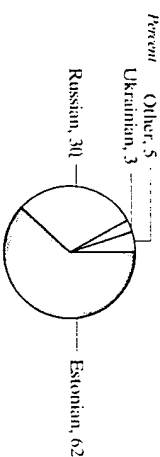
Net migration rate: +3.6 migrants/1,000 population (1979-88); +0.2 migrants/1,000 population (1989-90)

Birthrate: 15.4 births/1,000 population (1989)

Age composition: 0-14, 22%; 15-24, 14%; 25-64, 53%; 65+, 11% (1989)

Largest cities (population in thousands): Tallinn, 484; Tartu, 115; Narva, 82; Kohtla-Järve, 77; Pärnu, 54 (all in 1990)

Ethnic Composition

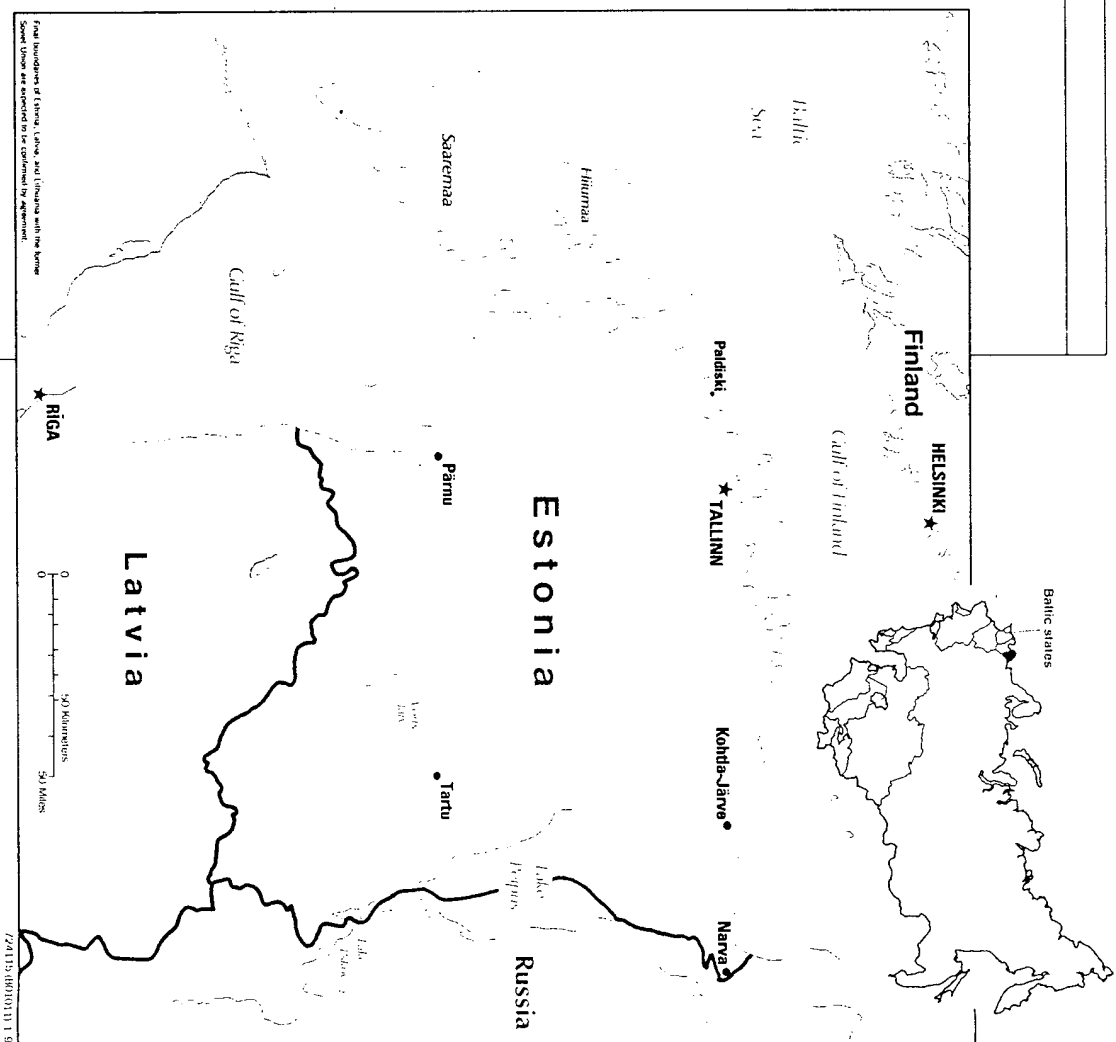


Trends in Ethnic Composition

Estonians hold a strong majority in the country, although their proportion fell by over 3 percentage points during the 1980s. During the same period, the combined proportion of Russians and Ukrainians grew by a comparable amount, largely because of immigration.

Economic Significance

Estonia is a big exporter of dairy products, and Tallinn has a multipurpose port with major naval and fishing facilities.



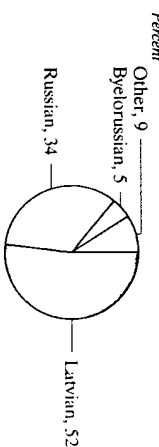
LATVIA

Declared independence 21 August 1991, recognized by the USSR on 6 September 1991

Basic Demographic Data

Total population:	2,687,000 (1990)
Growth rate:	0.6% (1979-89)
Urban:	71% Rural: 29% (1989)
Net migration rate:	+3.6 migrants/1,000 population (1979-88); -1.5 migrants/1,000 population (1989-90)
Birthrate:	14.5 births/1,000 population (1989)
Age composition:	0-14, 21%; 15-24, 14%; 25-64, 53%; 65+, 12% (1989)
Largest cities (population in thousands):	Riga, 917; Daugavpils, 128; Liepaja, 115; Jelgava, 75 (all in 1990)

Ethnic Composition

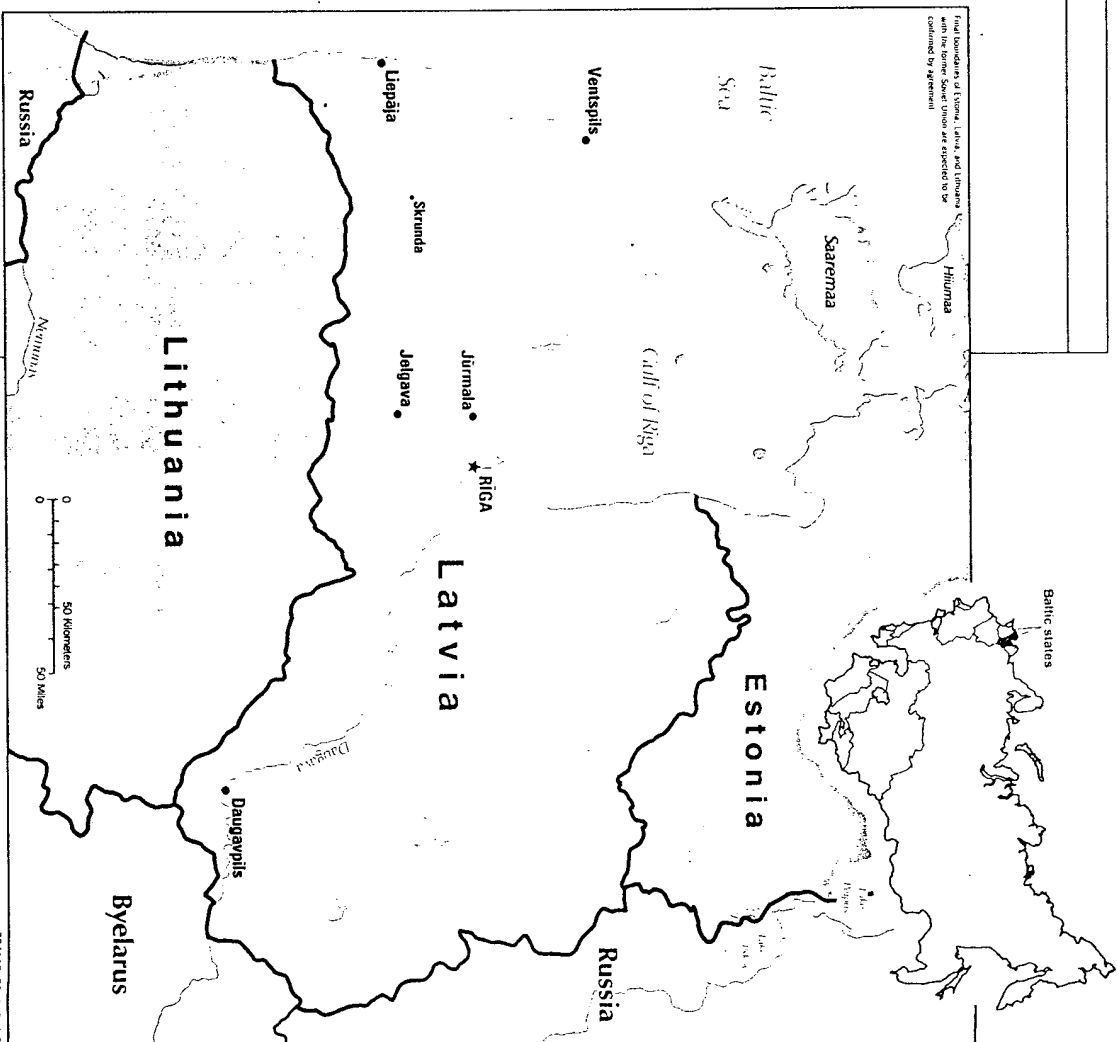


Trends in Ethnic Composition

The Latvians' proportion of the country's population fell by almost 2 percentage points between 1979 and 1989, and their majority standing in the state may now be threatened. A large immigration of ethnic Russians and a low number of births among Latvians account for this change.

Economic Significance

Ports at Ventspils and Riga are key transit points for oil and grain, respectively. With virtually no natural resources of its own, Latvia's relatively advanced industry depends heavily on imports from Soviet republics.



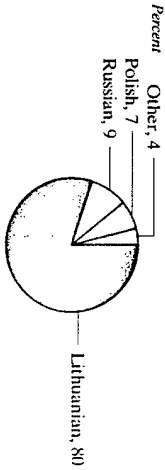
LITHUANIA

Declared independence 11 March 1990, recognized by the USSR on 6 September 1991

Basic Demographic Data

Total population:	3,723,000 (1990)
Growth rate:	0.8% (1979-89)
Urban:	68% (1989)
Rural:	32% (1989)
Net migration rate:	+2.8 migrants/1,000 population (1979-88); +0.7 migrants/1,000 (1989-90)
Birthrate:	15.1 births/1,000 population (1989)
Age composition:	0-14, 23%; 15-24, 15%; 25-64, 51%; 65+, 11% (1989)
Largest cities (population in thousands):	Vilnius, 593; Kaunas, 430; Klaipėda, 206; Šiauliai, 148; Panevėžys, 129 (all in 1989)

Ethnic Composition

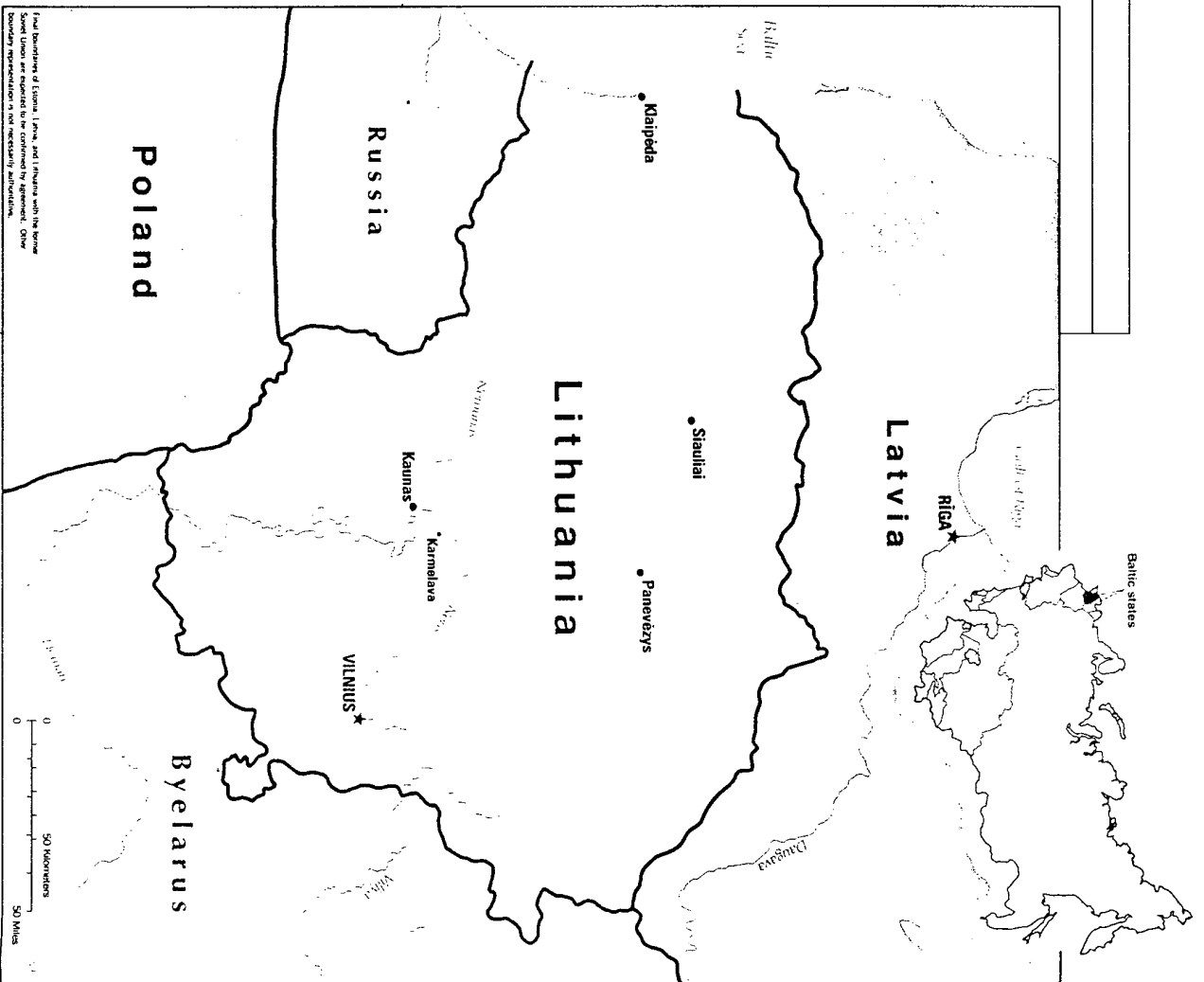


Trends in Ethnic Composition

Lithuanians hold a solid majority in their country—larger than the Estonians and Latvians hold in their countries. Nonetheless, the Lithuanian proportion dropped slightly during the 1980s. The Polish population is concentrated in the southern part of the country.

Economic Significance

Lithuania has a well-educated work force and a manufacturing base that is diversified by Soviet standards. While the republic is a net exporter of high-quality consumer goods, it is nearly totally dependent on outside sources for oil, natural gas, and coal.



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